

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 17-21 in accordance with the following:

1-16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system using ATM ~~packets~~cells comprising:
means for outputting a first ATM ~~packet~~cell and a second ATM ~~packet~~cell, each ATM ~~packet~~cell including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;
means for inputting the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell and extracting the communication information from the payload of the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell;
means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell, both of the ATM ~~packets~~cells being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM ~~packet~~cell; and
means for outputting the new ATM ~~packet~~cell.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system using ATM ~~packets~~cells comprising:
means for outputting a first ATM ~~packet~~cell and a second ATM ~~packet~~cell, each ATM ~~packet~~cell including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;
means for inputting the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell;
means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell, both of the ATM ~~packets~~cells being transferred to a same node and having same channel Identification information, into a payload of a new ATM ~~packet~~cell; and

means for outputting the new ATM ~~packet~~cell.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A multiplexing device in a system using ATM ~~packets~~cells including means for outputting a first ATM ~~packet~~cell and a second ATM ~~packet~~cell, each ATM ~~packet~~cell including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload, the multiplexing device comprising:

means for inputting the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell;

means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell, both of the ATM ~~packets~~cells being transferred to a same node and having a same channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM ~~packet~~cell; and

means for outputting the new ATM ~~packet~~cell.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method using ATM ~~packets~~cells comprising:
outputting a first ATM ~~packet~~cell and a second ATM ~~packet~~cell, each including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;

inputting the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell;

multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM ~~packet~~cell and the second ATM ~~packet~~cell, both of the ATM ~~packets~~cells being transferred to a same node, into a payload of a new ATM ~~packet~~cell; and outputting the new ATM ~~packet~~cell.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system using ATM ~~packets~~cells comprising:
a unit multiplexing communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of a first ATM ~~packet~~cell and a second ATM ~~packet~~cell, both of the ATM ~~packets~~cells being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM ~~packet~~cell, and

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a unit outputting the new ATM ~~packet~~cell.